

REMARKS

Claims 1-8, 12-17, and 19-34 are pending, with claims 1, 8, 14, 19, 23, 27, and 31 being independent. Claims 9-11 and 18 have been canceled.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the Examiner's indication that claims 11 and 18 were directed to allowable subject matter. In response to this indication, each of the independent claims has been amended to recite the subject matter that was previously recited in claims 11 and 18.

The amendments to the claims are believed to address the Examiner's objection to the specification.

Claims 1-8, 12-17 and 19-34 were rejected as being unpatentable over Shimada in view of Yoshihiro. Applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection in view of the amendments to the independent claims to include the subject matter that was previously recited in claims 11 and 18.

Applicants ask that the application be examined in view of the amendments and remarks made herein.

Enclosed is a \$110 check for the Petition for Extension of Time fee. Please apply any other charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: _____

2/3/04



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